THE DUWEL-HOYING FARM COLLECTION IN SHELBY COUNTY, OHIO

by
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Louis Hoying meticulously preserves the ninety-year old artifact collection from his family's 140 acre farm in McLean Township, Shelby County, Ohio. The assemblage was initiated by his great uncles, Joseph and Henry Duwel, when they picked up artifacts during farm operations long ago.

The Hoying farm is situated in the northwest comer of the county between Loramie Creek and Mile Creek in the drainage of the Great Miami River, which drains southward into the Ohio. Several miles from the farm lies a divide, where the St. Mary's River flows northward into Lake Erie.

Prehistoric people were attracted to the area because of the location between two creeks. A major attraction to the Hoying farm was the presence of a large glacial kettle or bog adjacent to a prominent ridge. Many artifacts were recovered from this ridge.

Paleo-American Period (12,000 -10,500 BP)

After the Wisconsin glacier receded around 14,000 years ago, the land became suitable for plants and animals, which were followed by humans. The Paleo people who first occupied the location were nomadic hunters and gatherers adapted to the cold climate. Evidence of their presence are the three fluted points in Figure 1.

The raw materials used for these artifacts reflect the mobility of Paleo people. Flints shown are Coshocton from central Ohio, Four-Mile-Creek from western Ohio, and Burlington from Illinois. The sections of the third fluted point were found seven years apart. The artifact, broken by farm equipment, reveals that the creamy white interior contrasts with the dull black color of the surface. The dark patina could have resulted from the artifact having been burned or having rested for millennia in the black soil of the bog.

Little is known about the artifact type in Figure 2 although examples are common in farm collections. Probably used as burnishers, they are tear-drop shaped, less than 2 inches long, and thick in cross section.

As the climate continued to warm, human lifeways adjusted, and new types of tools developed, such as the Lanceolate shown in Figure 3. This exceptionally fine and delicate artifact measures 4 1/2 inches long and exhibits 1 3/4 inches of lateral grinding.

Early Archaic Period (10,000 -7,000 BP)

An abundance of plants and animals began to flourish in the Early Archaic. The proliferation of point types from the Hoying farm manifests the continued adaptation of people to changing environment. The points they made were serrated, corner-notched, bifurcated, and beveled. The great accumulation of points suggests that hunter-gatherers lingered at one place in seasonal rounds, gathering nuts, berries, and reeds at one locale and setting up hunting camps at others.

Most of the side-notched points in Figure 4, made of tan chert, are typical of those found in Ohio. They were probably hafted as knives. The large example made of Carter Cave flint was possibly used for special purposes.

The small, thin serrated corner-notched points in Figure 5 are made of tan chert, the chert which must have been the most easily obtained. The sharp serrations suggest these points were used for cutting.

The people who made the many styles of bifurcated points in Figures 6, 7, and 8 left abundant evidence of their presence in Shelby County. The high-quality raw materials they used imply either great mobility or access to a trade network. Several bifurcated points are made of unidentified vitreous brown flints and cream-colored flints, as well as Upper Mercer, Wyandotte, and Flint Ridge flints.

Although the two bifurcated points in Figures 7 and 8 are lower-quality tan Silurian chert, they were, nevertheless, finely chipped. Archaeologist Tony DeRegnaucourt suggested that the type could have been used for frog-gigging.

Many corner-notched points were recovered. Although the makers of these points did use some fine flint, Figure 9 confirms that they frequently made do with tan chert.

Shallow side-notched points (Figure 10) are not usually made of drab flint. At this Shelby County site, however, tan chert was used, but heat-treated until it turned tints of pink and red.

Expanded notch, or E-notch, points (Figure 11) are rare in Ohio. Expanded notch points were hafted as knives, and the bevel on the edge of the blade resulted from resharpening. Strangely, few related Archaic Bevels were present.

Heavy Duty points represent a distinct, but rare, Ohio type, which is often omitted from flint type publications. The three classic examples recovered at the Hoying farm and shown in Figure 12 confirm the existence of the type. They were crafted from high-quality flints: Zaleski, Flint Ridge, and Wyandotte.

The Dovetail point in Figure 14, made of Flint Ridge chalcedony, was probably fitted as a spearhead or hafted as a knife. Because of the outstanding workmanship and exotic materials used, the Dovetail may have been a ceremonial tool.

Middle Archaic (7,000 - 5,000 BP)

Huge forests and swamps dominated the landscape of the Middle Archaic. The ground stone tools shown in Figures 17, 18, and 19 were the most obvious innovation of this time period.

New types of flint tools were introduced, including the Miami River Pentagonal points in Figure 16. They are few and used almost beyond recognition. Four McWhinney points (Figure 13) extend the northern range of the heavy-stemmed type.

Late Archaic (5,000 - 2,500 BP)

The Red Ocher culture is represented by the tip of a Turkeytail point in Figure 20. This artifact was broken, then burned in a fire so hot that the gray Wyandotte chert turned reddish brown and became pitted by numerous pot-lid fractures.

Early Woodland Period (2500 BP - 500 BP)

The points in Figure 22 reveal that although Adena occupation was light, it continued from early to late in the Adena period. Raw materials used include heat-treated tan (red) chert, black and gray Coshocton flint, Boyle chert, and Flint Ridge flint.

Middle Woodland Period (Hopewell, 2200 BP - 1500 BP)

The points in Figure 23 indicate the presence of "high church" Hopewell, as almost all are made of fine Flint Ridge flint. The Hopewell pendant in Figure 24 is made of red banded slate. The stone ball in Figure 25 may have been a flint-working tool or a game piece. A number of them have been found on Hopewell sites in central Ohio.

Intrusive Mound (1500 BP - 1000 BP)

Thin and delicate corner-notched and side-notched points (Figure 26) indicate the presence of the people who intruded their burials into the tops of Hopewell mounds.

Fort Ancient (1100 BP - 400 BP)

The four triangular points in Figure 27 indicate that Ft. Ancient people ventured on hunting expeditions north of their gardens in the southern half of Ohio. They used the nearest-available chert for their points, which in this case, was earthy Four-Mile-Creek chert.

The Ft. Ancient occupation is exemplified by the classic limestone Ft. Ancient pipe in Figure 28. It was found by Joe Duwel in the 1960s as he was plowing on the ridge adjacent to the glacial kettle.

Knives

Knives cannot be dated to any specific culture. The flint used for the knives in Figure 29 and 30 includes Coshocton, hornstone, Flint Ridge, Indiana Green (Attica), and heat-treated Silurian chert. Knives were recycled. Flint was hard to get, so when knives became expended, they were fashioned into scrapers.

Flint Disc and Polished Stone

Little is known about the flint disc in Figure 31, except that several have been found on Hopewell sites. Occasionally highly-polished pebbles are found, like the one in Figure 32. The surface sheen indicates that this small stone may have been carried for a long period of time, perhaps in a medicine bag.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Duwel-Hoying assemblage will long remain complete and available for further analysis, as Louis continues to preserve and add to the collection. It would be informative to compare a similar farm collection to the north, across the divide, in the drainage of Lake Erie.

Figure 1 (Holzapfel) Fluted point on left measures 1 3/4 inches long and is made of Upper Mercer flint. Second is Four-Mile-Creek chert, and third, heavily patinated, appears to be Burlington chert from Illinois.

Figure 2 (Holzapfel) Burnisher.

Figure 3 (Holzapfel) Thin, delicate lanceolate. Lateral grinding extends 1 3/4 inches.

Figure 4 (Holzapfel) Side-notch points, most worn to exhaustion. Carter Cave example probably special purpose tool.

Figure 5 (Holzapfel) Small serrated corner-notch points.

Figure 6 (Holzapfel) Bifircated points. Center artifact measures 3 1/4 inches long.

Figure 7 (Holzapfel) Fox Valley point, extremely thin.

Figure 8 (Holzapfel) Unusual type of bifurcated point. Tan chert.

Figure 9 (Holzapfel) Corner-notched points made of tan chert, Indiana hornstone, and possibly Delaware chert.

Figure 10 (Holzapfel) Shallow side-notch points made of heat-treated chert.

Figure 11 (Holzapfel) Expanded notch or E-Notch points.

Figure 12 (Holzapfel) Heavy Duty points. Flints: Upper Mercer, tan chert, Indiana hornstone.

Figure 13 (Holzapfel) McWhinney points

Figure 14 (Holzapfel) Dovetail made of Flint Ridge chalcedony.

Figure 15 (Holzapfel) Fine pentagonal point.

Figure 16 (Holzapfel) Miami River Pentagonal points made of Logan County chert. Used to exhaustion.

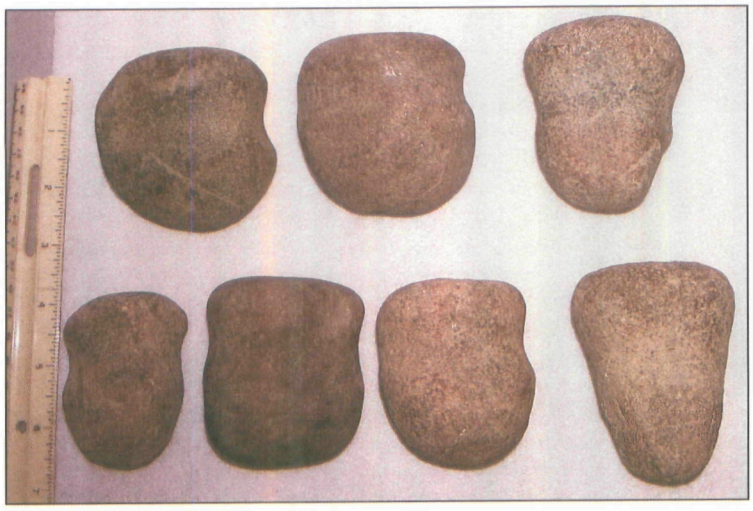

Figure 17 (Holzapfel) Three-quarter grooved hammers.

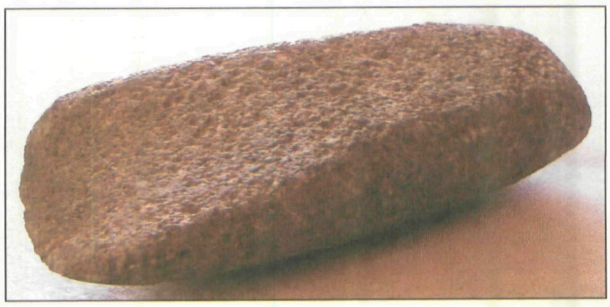

Figure 18 (Holzapfel) Gouge. Weathered surface.

Figure 19 (Holzapfel) Axes and slate celt.

Figure 20 (Holzapfel) Tip of heavily burned Turkeytail point.

Figure 21 (Holzapfel) Expanding stem point. Glacial Kame?

Figure 22 (Holzapfel) Early to Late Adena points.

Figure 23 (Holzapfel) Hopewell points.

Figure 24 (Holzapfel) Red slate pendant.

Figure 25 (Holzapfel) Stone ball.

Figure 26 (Holzapfel) Intrusive Mound points.

Figure 27 (Holzapfel) Triangular Ft. Ancient points.

Figure 28 (Holzapfel) Ft. Ancient pipe made of limestone.

Figure 29 (Holzapfel) Knives.

Figure 30 (Holzapfel) Large knives made of Four-Mile or other Silurian period chert.

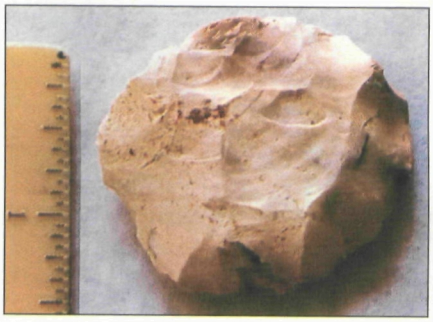

Figure 31 (Holzapfel) Flint disc.

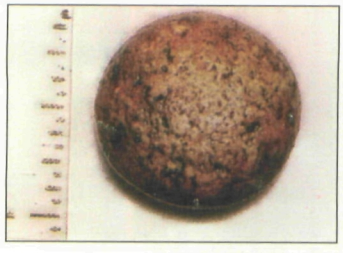

Figure 32 (Holzapfel) Highly polished pebble.